



25X1

SECRET

25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

"Comrades: The Communist International was not intended to remain forever. The evolution and success of Leninist communism in Russia demanded the creation of an international league to support and contribute to the success of communism in more than one place in the world. Following the success of communism in Russia, and the treason of the socialists (namely the Second International), it became necessary to create a general leadership to direct the communist parties in the world to prevent them from falling into the errors of the socialists, and to help the spread of communism throughout the world. For this reason, therefore, the Third International was founded, headed by Comrade Dimitrov.

"The Communist International led the communist parties of the world in a sound, nationalist manner, taught them sound communist principles, and established in every country a cadre capable of leading the masses. When the International reached this stage it became necessary to dissolve it, because the purpose for which it was created was realized and each communist party in the world had experienced leaders, with a proper understanding of the Marxist-Leninist-Stalinist communism, capable of directing the policies of their parties."

4. Hilu added in his numerous announcements that the Syrian and Lebanese Communist Parties had been independent of the Comintern for several years, because leaders of the International knew that the leaders of the Syrian and Lebanese Parties possessed a wide communist education, and there was no fear that they would fall into error. ( ) Comment. The Syrian and Lebanese Communist Parties had actually been separated from the Comintern and attached to the French Communist Party, which in turn was directed by the Comintern.) In his announcements, Hilu praised the glorious activities of the Comintern in serving, strengthening, and directing world communism. He concluded by saying that the Syrian and Lebanese Communist Parties would work independently, inspired by the internal interests of their two countries.

25X1A

5. The directives, particularly the portion relating to the independence of each of the two Communist Parties, did not please Baghdash, who often criticized Hilu for his independent bent. According to source, he urged his supporters within the Party, such as Nicola Shawi, Fu'ad Qazan, Hashim Amin, Hasan Quraytin, and others, to raise disputes with Hilu by such arguments as: "If it happens that in one of the phases of the struggle of the Communist Party the interests of our country should clash with those of the Soviets, will the Lebanese Communist Party stand against the Soviets after the Party's independence?"

25X1

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-3-

6. To such questions Hilu replied: "The Soviets do not stand against the Arab people. If they oppose the Arabs, it is the ruling Arab capitalists they oppose and not the people. At any rate, such questions will be met as they arise."
7. Baghdash arranged with his supporters in the Syrian and Lebanese Parties to hold a conference of the leaders of the two parties to discuss the issues arising from the dissolution of the Comintern. This conference was held in September 1944, in the al-Hazra's Quarter of Beirut, under Baghdash's chairmanship. It was attended by more than 240 representatives from the two parties and lasted three days. The conference was closed after decisions were reached supporting the dissolution of the Comintern and proclaiming the independence of the Syrian and Lebanese Communist Parties, with the recommendation that they cooperate completely with one another, on the basis that Syria and Lebanon formed one political unit. Source states that this recommendation, supported by a majority of the voters, provided justification for the control exercised by Baghdash over the Lebanese Communist Party.

25X1

SECRET